

INTRODUCTION.

THE author of the following story, of missionary life and death, did not send any preface with his manuscript. Probably he thought that none was needed. The successive chapters tell their own tale and unfold their own motive. Mr. Stilwell himself is well known, to at least the Baptists of Canada, as one of the ablest and most devoted of the noble band of missionaries who are laboring among the Telugus, under the direction of the Canadian Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. The following statements, taken in substance from a private letter which accompanied the MSS., will supply whatever is necessary by way of introduction :

1. The story is an attempt to give an idea of what is really needed to fulfil Christ's Commission, which it assumes is still binding.

2. No particular missionary policy is advocated in the story. Its one idea is embraced in the question, What must we do to fulfil the Commission ?

3. It will be observed that the story closes with the death of the missionary, leaving several characters—such as Dr. Rama Rao, Mr. Sabbarao the official, Sangari the converted Hindu, the old conservative Brahman, Mr. Venkata Krishnaya, and the Hindu widow, still undeveloped. Mr. Stilwell says : "The story may be considered complete, or incomplete, according to the success it meets with. If anything more in this line of writing can accomplish anything for Christ, the present story may be continued in another volume, after a reasonable time.

4. Mr. Stilwell adds : "Having, therefore, written so much because it was incumbent on me to do so ; because I am under loyal obligation to Christ to do anything and everything coming within my ability to advance His cause and establish His kingdom, I now send it forth, trusting that He who prompted me to write will also bless what has been written."